

## RUSSELL LEE KOLOGISKI

1946—1988

R. L. Kologiski, known as "Rusty," was born 19 August 1946 in Franklin, Indiana but grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina where he graduated from high school.

He attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and received the B.S. degree in 1971. However, he interrupted his undergraduate education due to the war, serving in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1966—1968 in Vietnam. He developed a strong interest in botany and ecology as a result of his military service and the courses he took after his return to UNCC. He conducted an undergraduate project on the Flora of Mecklenburg County, NC (Charlotte) during 1969—71.

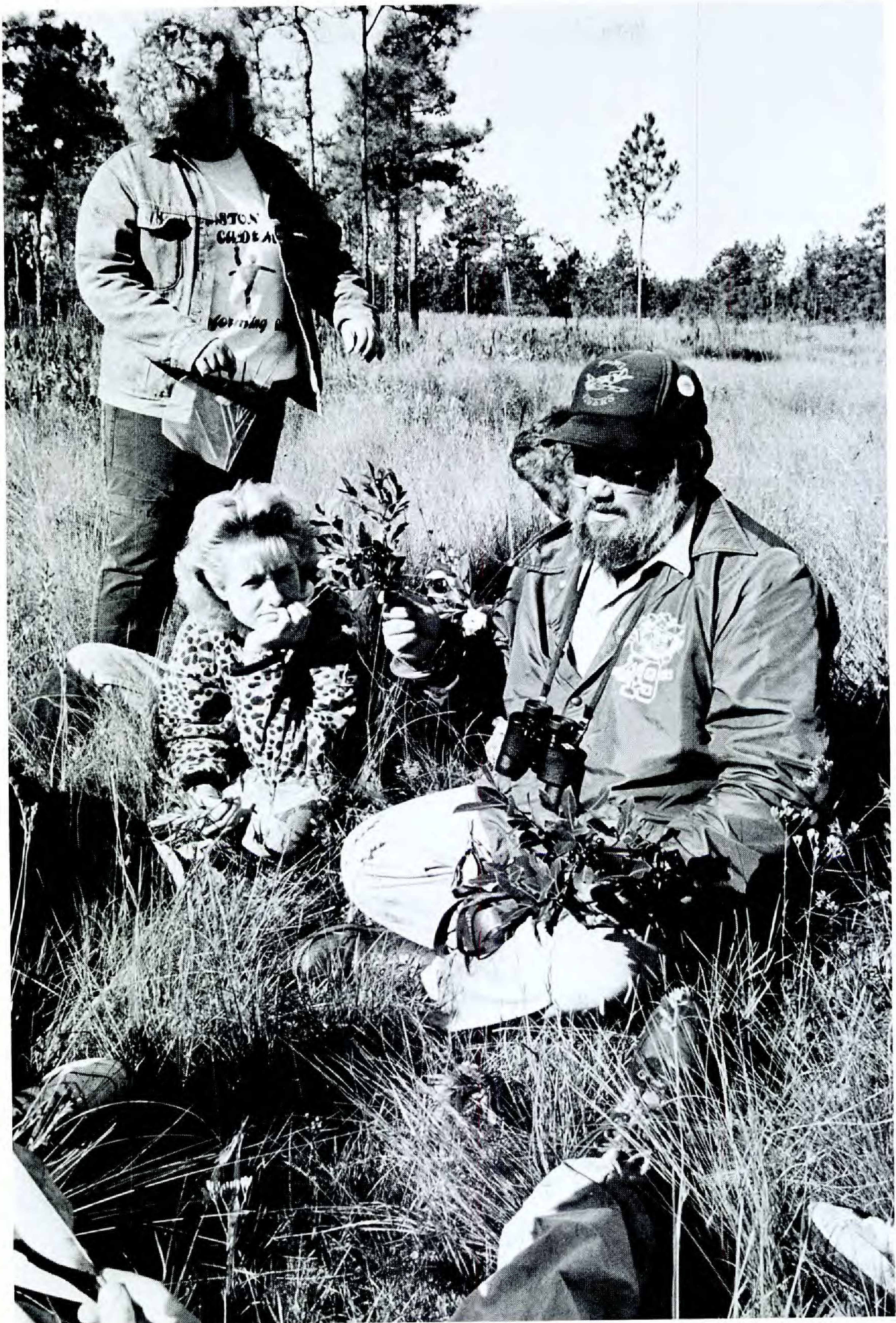
In 1971, he entered North Carolina State University to further his education. During the summers of 1972—73, he was an Intern for the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, Division of State Parks, Natural Areas Program. His job was to survey potential natural areas within the state and prepare reports on the significance of these areas.

He moved to Washington, D.C. in September, 1972 as Botanist for the Center for Natural Areas, Ecology Program, Smithsonian Institution. The primary activity involved the inventory of natural areas of the Atlantic Coastal Plain with emphasis on the Chesapeake Bay. He was instrumental in the initial development of the national list of threatened and endangered plants that became the Smithsonian list of 1975.

Returning to North Carolina State University in 1973 as a Research Assistant in the Department of Botany, he began a study of the Phytosociology of the Green Swamp, Brunswick County, North Carolina. The study correlated the vegetation, soils, hydroperiod and fire for a 30,000 acre portion of the 200,000 acre swampland. His publication of this study has become a standard for comparison of wetland studies. He received the Ph.D. from North Carolina State University in Botany (Plant Ecology and Taxonomy) in 1977.

In September, 1976, he joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service moving to Jamestown, North Dakota where he remained until May, 1980. His appointment was at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center as Staff Ecologist. The primary responsibility was to conduct synecological research on the grassland vegetation of the Northern Great Plains. Most of this activity was to investigate the relationships between the vegetation,





abiotic factors and bird communities. He also served as curator of the herbarium. While at Jamestown, he assisted in the Platte River vegetation analysis and directed the work of a Ph.D. student at Iowa State University. Four publications resulted from his tenure in North Dakota.

In May, 1980, he moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico to become the Regional Botanist for the Endangered Species Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The region included the states of Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. His duties included gathering data for and the development of listing packages for endangered and threatened species, directing recovery efforts on listed plants, providing technical assistance to other governmental agencies, and interfacing with the southwestern botanical community. During this period, status reports on ca. 200 species were prepared.

In April, 1984, he became Botanist/Wetland Ecologist for the National Wetlands Inventory of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at St. Petersburg, Florida. He managed the technical aspects for the group's activities in the specialized disciplines of botany, ecology, and natural resources inventory. A large part of the duties involved monitoring the mapping of wetland sites. Field investigations to check aerial photointerpretation were conducted to develop the NWI Classification System and its application to the United States. He acted as liaison to the Fish and Wildlife Service Research and NWI related activities including: training on the NWI Classification System, development of the NWI Plant Species database, and developing a methodology to assess the wildlife value of the specific NWI mapping units.

He retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1986 for health reasons relating to pressure and intensity. Returning to Charlotte, North Carolina, he became an Adjunct Lecturer and Research Associate of Biology at the UNCC campus. He taught courses and conducted Wetland Plant Identification Workshops for the Soil Conservation Service and Fish and Wildlife Service, and directed the Summer Ventures Biology Program for gifted high school students. He also maintained a successful environmental consulting practice providing environmental assessments for sewer, highway, and lake-dam projects.

On December 2, 1988, he was hospitalized following a stroke. The initial stroke was followed by others and he died on December 4, 1988. The Department of Biology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has established the "Russell L. Kologiski Field Trip Fund" in his honor.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- James F. Matthews, Department of Biology, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 28223, U.S.A.